

Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department
Board of Health
November 17, 2020

A quorum was present

Board Members:

Tim Thorson
Dr. Darryl Bindschadler
Dr. Brad Kincheloe (Zoom)
Dr. Karl Musgrave (Zoom)
Sue Hume (Zoom)

Others in Attendance:

Dr. Stan Hartman	Kasey Mullins
Dr. Kathy Emmons	Mark Voss (Zoom)
Dee Determann	Trudy Eisele (Zoom)
Michael O'Donnell (Zoom)	Leigh Anne Manlove (Zoom)
Roy Kroeger	Pete Laybourn (Zoom)
Emily Robinette	

Mr. Thorson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Bindschadler moved to accept the agenda. Dr. Musgrave seconded the motion, which was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Musgrave moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held October 20, 2020 and the special meeting held October 27, 2020. Dr. Bindschadler seconded the motion, which was unanimously accepted.

Mrs. Eisele covered the Treasurer's report for October 2020, with an ending balance of \$2,576,266.00. Mrs. Eisele covered that there was a 45 cent difference between the software accounts that they are still searching for on their side. Ms. Determann covered the revenues of \$291,466.32 and expenses of \$337,924.24. The Treasurer's report, revenues, and expenses was moved by Dr. Bindschadler, seconded by Dr. Musgrave and accepted unanimously.

Contracts and Agreements:

Dr. Emmons introduced the contract between Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department and Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division. She explained that this is a renewal contract for the County Health Officer for \$9,600. Dr. Bindschadler moved the contract, which was seconded by Dr. Kincheloe and passed unanimously.

Dr. Emmons introduced the contract between Cheyenne-Laramie County Health Department and Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division. Dr. Musgrave moved the renewal contract for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Cities Readiness Initiative for \$264,950, which was seconded by Dr. Kincheloe and passed unanimously.

Dr. Emmons briefed the Board on the current COVID-19 data:

Week of October 5 54 cases
Week of October 12 114 cases
Week of October 19 154 cases
Week of October 26 245 cases
Week of November 2 308 cases
Week of November 9 369 cases
Week of November 16 608 cases

Friday November 13, 14.25% of all test with a new positive result in previous 2 weeks. This is incredibly high and would like it to be at 2%. We are the highest in the State.

1,274 lab confirmed + 306 probable = 1,580 active cases in the county.
15 official deaths and 48 are hospitalized with seven in ICU and two on vents. Our biggest concern is the hospitalization. Do we have enough people to take care of the patients? Do we have enough doctors and nurses? CRMC is bringing in staff from traveling services. Tim Thornell is offering \$160 an hour to get nurses and still having a hard time due to supply and demand.

There is no relief in sight. We are testing 150 a day on average. Yesterday we tested 326. It keeps ramping up. Archer is a good choice and people do not seem to mind driving out there. The staff is inside and a lot more protected from the elements. Mr. Thorson inquired on how many are presenting with symptoms. Thru Dr. Emmons, Mrs. Mullins said approximately 70% and in last 24 hours, we have received 152 new positive cases.

We are continuing to tweak the process, looking at ways to see more people, and being more productive.

Dr. Emmons stated that we have 10 new employees doing contact tracing. We are not doing as much close contact tracing, but we are contacting all the positives. We also have nurses, EH staff, and Emily all doing tracing. Mr. Thorson inquired on the consequences of not putting close contacts on quarantine. Dr. Emmons replied that we are giving positive person a letter to give their close contacts. The letter is signed by Harrist and gives instructions on quarantining. Mr. Thorson further inquired if we are getting too many cases to contact trace. Dr. Emmons replied that we pushed it as far as we could. At 170 a day, it is not possible to contact trace. We are still very much involved with the schools, medical facilities, and Comea Shelter. We just cannot reach into the level that we were. For every positive, there is approximately five close contacts.

She further briefed that we are working closely with Depart of Health on the vaccines. It may be middle of December before we get the first round. Several months ago, we ordered an ultra-cold freezer just in case it was needed. We went to the SLIB for funding which was turned down originally. They have since funded. We are one of the few counties that have the ultra-cold freezer. We will be able to be a processing center once the vaccine come in.

Dr. Bindschadler stated that the ultra-cold vaccine has a 5 day life and the other one has a 30 day life.

Mrs. Hume is concerned that everyone will get on bandwagon on immunization, i.e. Walgreens and will not have storage. Dr. Emmons stated that they would not be giving the ultra-cold vaccine.

Dr. Hartman briefed that the mask mandate intentions are clear and that we have to get mask compliance. The prime goal is to keep business open, schools open, and people healthy. The county mask order is primarily for businesses commercial and retail open to the public. It is not a felony level. We have not asked the attorney for enforcement. We are not going to be a mask police. We do want business employees to wear masks and ask public to wear mask. Law enforcement may be involved if disturbance in peace. The order is legal and there is an enforcement in it. We do want to do education first. The smaller business are affected more than big businesses. The public needs to have some confidence going in. Does not envision taking to DA and hopes that other measures will take effect.

Mr. Thorson inquired if there are further orders are planned. Dr. Hartman replied none at this time and he is following the States lead.

Mr. Thorson thanked District Attorney Manlove for attending the meeting. Her point that she made to the media and separately to me about the resources available and her office and the struggles for our highest law enforcement in the county to be in a position not to prosecute because of resources is a tragedy for our community and in no way does the Board want to increase the workload to the District Attorneys office.

District Attorney Manlove stated That Mr. Thorson is the only entity that has reached out to her office and she appreciates him reaching out and the opportunity to attend the BOH meeting. She is here in the capacity to observe, to listen, to be better informed and not prepared to make any statements beyond what has been said. She appreciates the groups work and would like to attend to learn about how we can improve our community and to survive the pandemic.

County Attorney Mark Voss stated that the violation in itself is a misdemeanor and can be prosecuted thru a citation. The issue after that is the prosecution of cases in circuit court due to resources. Under the State Statue authorized the County to enforce various nuances creating a hazardous situation dealing with human health, which is a civil process and requires a cease and exist order.

Mr. Thorson inquired if it is possible for the County Attorney office to assist in prosecution. Mr. Voss replies that yes, they could however, they also have resource issues as they are down one deputy and only have one deputy and if he had the resources he would not have a problem prosecuting them. He would have to prioritize cases but it would certainly be an option if it came down to that.

Mr. Thorson stated that it might be possible to obtain resources, related to COVID thru the various federal funds including FEMA and CARES Act.

City Attorney Michael O'Donnell stated that the City attorney office could help. If a disturbance is created or failure to follow a lawful order are charges that are currently available to be prosecuted in municipal court. The limitation that the City Court has is we are not able to charge directly under a state statue and the city has declined to adopt an order that would allow direct enforcement of Dr. Hartman's orders. Dr. Hartman and he are working with the City Council, Mayor and Mayor Elect to see if there is an appetite to adopt an ordinance that would allow enforcement. Mr. Thorson thanked everyone for attending and inquired if it may be appropriate for the Board to ask the city for a city ordinance which was not moved.

Adjourned at 1304 p.m. for executive meeting

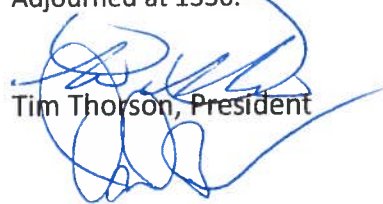
Reconvened at 1327

Mr. Thorson designated Mrs. Mullins as the Deputy Director. This is not changing her job duties but in the event that Dr. Emmons is not available. Motion by Dr. Musgrave, seconded by Dr. Kincheloe and passed unanimously.

Mr. Thorson entertain a motion to pay salary supplements to Dr. Emmons and Mrs. Mullin at 15% of current base salary due to the time that they are putting into COVID. Dr. Bindschadler moved the motion and Dr. Kincheloe seconded which passed unanimously. This would remain in effect until board decides otherwise and can be reimbursed and if not it will be covered by general funds. This does not affect the hazard pay.

Mr. Thorson thanked the public for attending and stated that it is imperative that we do not have the small staff tied up with questions on do masks work. The board can answer the questions without tying up staff

Adjourned at 1336.



Tim Thorson, President

Dr. Darryl Bindschadler, Vice President

Dr. Karl Musgrave, Board Secretary